IN THE CLAIMS:

A status of all the claims of the present Application is presented below:

1. (Original)   A system for monitoring network condition, comprising:

a policy server operable to generate collection configuration information based on network topology information and at least one collection policy; and

at least one collector operable to access the collection configuration information and operable to poll a subset of network nodes requiring monitoring according to the collection configuration information.

2. (Original)   The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one collection policy defines the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

3. (Original)   The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one collection policy defines the Internet Protocol of the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

4. (Original)   The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one collection policy defines a device type of the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

5. (Original)   The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines what data is to be collected from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

6. (Original)   The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines how data is to be collected from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

7. (Original) The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines the frequency to collect data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

8. (Original) The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at lease one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines when to collect data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

9. (Original) The system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the policy server is further operable to generate collection configuration information based on at least one collection instruction, the collection instruction defines how to store data collected from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

10. (Previously presented) A method for monitoring a network, comprising:

receiving network topology information indicating a list of network nodes to monitor;

receiving a definition of a subset of the list of network nodes from which to collect data and a definition of the type of data to collect;

generating collection configuration information in response to the network topology information, definition of the subset of network nodes and definition of the type of data; and

collecting data from the subset of network nodes according to the collection configuration information.

11. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving the network topology information comprises receiving identities of the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

12. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving the network topology information comprises receiving identities of active network nodes existing in the network.

13. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data comprises receiving a range of Internet Protocol addresses of the subset of network nodes.

14. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data comprises receiving a device type of the subset of network nodes.

15. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data comprises receiving a predetermined criteria to define the subset of network nodes.

16. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of the type of data to collect comprises receiving an identification of a data type to collect from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

17. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of the type of data to collect comprises receiving a definition of a timing related to the collection of the data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

18. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving a definition of the type of data to collect comprises receiving a definition of how to store the collected data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

19. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, further comprising providing the generated collection configuration information to at least one collector operable to collect the data from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

20. (Previously presented)   A system for network fault monitoring, comprising:
means for receiving network topology information;
means for receiving a definition of a subset of network nodes from which to collect data and a definition of the type of data to collect;

means for generating collection configuration information in response to the network topology information, definition of the subset of network nodes and definition of the type of data; and

means for polling the subset of network nodes to collect data according to the collection configuration information.

21. (Original) The system, as set forth in claim 20, wherein means for receiving the network topology information comprises means for receiving identities of the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

22. (Original) The system, as set forth in claim 20, wherein means for receiving a definition of a subset of nodes comprises means for receiving a device type of the subset of network nodes.

23. (Original) The system, as set forth in claim 20, wherein means for receiving a definition of the type of data to collect comprises means for receiving an identification of a data type to collect from the subset of network nodes requiring monitoring.

24. (Currently amended)　　A method for network fault monitoring, comprising:

accessing a collection policy specifying criteria for collecting data from a plurality of network nodes; and

filtering the plurality of network nodes to ~~target~~ determine a subset of the plurality of network nodes for fault monitoring based on the collection policy.

25. (Currently amended)　　The method of Claim 24, further comprising receiving the [[a]] collection policy indicating the criteria for selecting the subset of network nodes.

26. (Currently amended)　　The method of Claim 24, further comprising receiving the [[a]] collection policy indicating the criteria for selecting the subset of network nodes, the criteria identifying at least one of internet protocol addresses, device types, database values, and management information base object values of the network nodes.

27. (Currently amended)   The method of Claim 24, further comprising identifying the subset of network nodes using node status information indicating [[the]] an operational status of each node in the plurality of network nodes.

28. (Currently amended)   The method of Claim 24, further comprising filtering the plurality of network nodes using data provided by the [[a]] collection policy and a network topology source.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising forming the subset of network nodes comprising deficiently operating nodes.

30. (Currently amended)   The method of Claim 24, further comprising providing, to at least one collector, an updated criteria collection policy for identifying the subset of network nodes to target for fault monitoring.